

Drug Czar 90-Day Report
Presented to Governor James E Risch
By
Drug Czar Jim Tibbs

Created by Executive Order on July 11, 2006 The Office of the Drug Czar was created by Governor Jim Risch to address the **“need for and individual to efficiently and effectively participate, observe, advise and assist the Governor in Coordinating all drug and substance abuse initiatives in the State of Idaho.”**

Over the past 90 days Drug Czar Jim Tibbs has:

- Met with the Regional Advisory Councils (RAC) all over Idaho
 - Idaho Health and Welfare has created seven (7) regional advisory councils. These RAC's are composed of stakeholders that work daily with substance abuse treatment, education and recovery. These individuals are the front line and first responders to issues of drug abuse in our communities.
 - Sitting member of local DEA agency regular meeting
- Reviewed the policies and programs of each relevant agency in their approach to substance abuse
 - Idaho currently has 133 government sponsored substance abuse programs. The Drug Czar has met with agency leaders and community resources to engage and understand how Idaho approaches all aspects of substance abuse.
- Invited and met with White House Office of Drug Policy Directors
 - Dr. Bertha Madras visited Idaho (9/27/2006) to see first hand Idaho's efforts on substance abuse. The Drug Czar forged a new relationship with the White House Policy office that will bring new resource to Idaho's efforts.
 - Dr. Madras also recognized Idaho as the nations leader in the use of Drug Courts
- Personally interacted with those in recovery
 - One of the most critical functions of the Drug Czar. Personal, one on one understanding of how drugs and the recovery from abuse has affected lives. The Drug Czar understands the policy is only paper, and the decision makers must see first hand how programs are changing lives.

- Convened the Interagency Committee on Substance Abuse
 - Collaborated and participated with six (6) State agencies (and legislative representatives)
 - Health and Welfare
 - Idaho State Police
 - Idaho Department of Juvenile Justice
 - Department of Corrections
 - Idaho Transportation Department
 - Department of Education

The Drug Czar convened the interagency committee to build and adopt a strategic plan to address substance abuse intervention, education, prevention and treatment. That strategic plan will become an outcome based measuring unit for Idaho's programming in the area of substance abuse.

The Drug Czar was chosen as the Chairman of the committee by the membership.

- Developed a strategic plan and path forward endorsed by the Interagency Committee
 - This is the first of its kind in Idaho. Upon convening the Interagency Committee, the Drug Czar immediately tasked the group with developing a collaborative approach to the key areas of treatment, prevention, education and intervention. That plan was developed and includes timeline; responsibility delegation and performance measures spread over ten (10) goals and twenty-three (23) strategies.
- Participated in Drug Court Graduations
 - The Drug Czar has invested and recognized as one of the most cost effective and successful approaches to treatment These unique individuals and their mentors have made the choice to get off drugs, stay out of jail and rebuild their lives. The Drug Czar has promoted the program and spread the message of recovery and revival to its many graduates.
- Active role in area community town hall discussions on alcohol, drugs and violence
 - In addition to the RAC interaction, The Drug Czar has begun what will be many more local, community listening sessions on substance abuse in Idaho. Everyday community members, elected officials, law enforcement and the recovering population, have all participated to better inform the Drug Czar to the affect of drugs in their communities.

The activities of the Drug Czar have resulted in three (3) core areas of recommendation to the Governor.

1. Centralized and Efficient Approach

The strategic plan has a developed approach to measuring each effort against stated outcome expectations. We must streamline, across agency jurisdictions, how we assess and screen individuals. A collaborative, shared approach is best.

The Office of the Drug Czar affords the opportunity to serve as a central clearinghouse for resources, information and mediation. As the chief advocate, the Drug Czar can become the one stop shop for those reaching out to Idaho on substance abuse efforts.

Facts and recommendations:

- a. There are 133 government sponsored programs statewide
- b. Agencies must standardize approach to treatment and education
- c. Creation Common Screening and Assessment Protocols system wide is recommended
- d. We need to assess points to reduce duplication and share personnel and information resources
- e. Implement the strategic plan for greater efficiency and output

2. Fiscal Responsibility

It is the obligation and expectation that all state efforts are the best stewards of taxpayer dollars. As a central agent, The Drug Czar can collaborate multiple agency budgets into a single anti-drug budget proposal for future legislators.

In addition, we must build a long term, sustained approach to substance abuse. While one time dollars are useful, Idaho must develop a long term commitment and approach.

Facts and recommendations:

- a. Idaho must adopt a long term budget strategy
- b. Adoption of a multi-agency "package" approach to budget requests
 - i. Collaborate and combine all substance abuse budget requests in to singular request to the legislature
- c. Create sustainable rich programs
 - i. Issue and seek out long term commitments to the most effective programs
 - ii. Invest in local community support and recourses
 - iii. Focus funding only toward those programs proven effective

3. Locally Driven

The best path to success is through those closest to the problems of substance abuse. Learning of new drugs, addressing gang activity and the best use of resources must be driven by the “first responders” to substance abuse.

Facts and recommendations:

- a. Invest in the RAC System. These are the local experts and the best resource to how Idaho can best address need.
- b. Drug Czar will engage in a statewide listening tour
 - i. Meet with local Drug Court Judges
 - ii. Get recommendations from each County Sheriff
 - iii. Get Recommendations from Education Leadership
 - iv. Implement strategic plan through area RAC councils
- c. We need to develop a “first responder” grassroots intelligence gathering protocol to intervene on new drug and substance activity

Now is the time to be forward looking

In the past 90 days we have been successful refocusing Idaho’s efforts in substance abuse. As we move forward, it is critical to retain that commitment and become innovative in how we look at the issue.

Facts and recommendations:

- d. The Drug Czar is asking the State of Idaho retain a true commitment to the efforts of the office of Drug Czar and the Interagency Committee
 - i. It is recommended to codify Office of Drug Policy
 - ii. To keep the accomplishments and efforts of the Drug Czar moving forward it is recommended to fund the office at the level of two (2) FTE, including the Drug Czar
- e. The Office of Drug Czar and the State of Idaho must keep a proactive approach to new and emerging threats
 - i. Prescription Drugs are the “new meth.” We must develop an aggressive and target approach to the quickly emerging abuse of prescription drugs in teens.
 - ii. Continue to build relationship with Federal Offices. The Drug Czar has accepted a standing seat in the regular DEA local meetings. Also, the White House, National Drug Czar and members of Idaho’s Congressional Delegation are key relationship that will continue to grow and benefit Idaho’s efforts.
 - iii. Law enforcement must engage the cutting edge of new substances. Each generation and every community experience new substances that harm. The yet to-be discovered substance ripe for abuse serve as our greatest threat and opportunity to prevent abuse.